

## Summary

### **Kultická hudba a zpěv ve starém Egyptě** **Cultish music and chant in Ancient Egypt** **Ingrid Špátová, DiS.**

Music, although this term didn't exist in Ancient Egypt, has played a very important role in the common and cultish Egyptian life. How Egyptian music sounded, can be just guessed, but some characteristics have been preserved on Coptic church. Egyptians probably used the pentatonic scale. Their musical tuning and performance had to observe strict rules to keep order of *maat*.

One of the most important sphere of Egyptian cult have been funerary rituals, including processions with music and lamentations. A fundamental significance in funerary and temple cult have had women musicians, especially priestesses and chantresses of Hathor *shemayet*. They served to numerous deities, male and female, and they belonged to high-ranking families or to families of the high priests.

There were several deities directly connected with music. Gods with the closest connections to musicians and deities with musical attributes were for example Hathor (lately unified with Isis), Usir, Bes, Meret, Hathor's son Ihy, Thovt, Bastet or Ptah. Temple musicians made offering and performances to deities about three or four times a day.

Ancient musical instruments can be sorted to four groups: idiophones (musical instruments making sound by shaking it), membranophones (instruments with hollow body covered by membrane, mainly the drums), aerophones (woodwind musical instruments using for sound human breath vibrating in air column) and chordophones (stringed musical instruments). The most important instruments for rituals were *sistrum*, harp and flute, also the drums and percussions were essential.

Musicians in Ancient Egypt were the part of the social elite. There were some relevant persons in Old Kingdom called chironomists. They were probably sort of conducters determinating tuning, rythm and melody of playing musicians. Chironomists, as well as many other matters in Ancient Egypt, still covers a sercet and it's a question if it will be revealed one day.